

# MERCATOR:

O R,

## Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Saturday, December 5. to Tuesday, December 8. 1713.

*The Notion of the French Influence on the Spanish Trade enquired into, and proved frivolous.*

*No Nation can take off the Produce of Spain but the English.*

*The English therefore will always have the preference in Matters of Trade in Spain.*

*An Example in the Case of Exportation of Bullion.*

*The reason of publishing formerly the Account of Bullion Exported to Holland.*

*The like Security in the keeping all Nations from the Spanish West-Indies.*

*No just Ground to fear that the Spaniards will ever permit the French, or any else, to get a Footing in their part of America.*

**T**HE present Subject of the *MERCATOR* is the Discourse of the Influence which France will have upon Spain, to the prejudice of the British Commerce.

This has been determined, in the last *MERCATOR*, to mean, the Spaniards giving unjust Preferences in Trade to the French Merchants or Merchandizes, in prejudice of the British Trade.

These unjust Preferences must consist either in Prohibitions or Impositions, laid on One, more than the Other.

1. *The Prohibitions*: All the Prohibitions practised in Spain, which regard this part, are included in these Two, Prohibiting the Exportation of Bullion, and Prohibiting the Trade to the Spanish West-Indies.

1. *The Trade to the Spanish West-Indies*: It is not only the Interest of Spain to preserve this, but it would be the entire Ruine of their Country not to do it; and therefore, as in our last, the Spaniards must be something more than Mad, if they ever admit the French, or any one else, to break in upon them there; but this is not all, it is also an Article of the Peace, expressly stipulated between Britain and France, that it shall not be, (viz.) That the Trade to New-Spain shall be carried on upon the same foot as in the Time of King Charles II. *Vide the Treaty*: But of this again presently.

2. *As to the Prohibition of Exporting Bullion*: It is a known Case, that it is expressly Prohibited in Spain on the severest Penalties, and that to all Nations Indefinitely, and ever has been so: And yet that the Execution of that Prohibition is Universally omitted; and also that if it were not so omitted, the Spaniards could not carry on their Trade. This shall be a little explained, as follows:

The Growth and Produce, as well of Old Spain, as of the Spanish West-Indies, is so small, compared to the Quantities of Goods which they buy from all the other Nations of Europe, that it is supposed the Balance runs against Spain five parts in Six, so that they pay five Sixths of their whole Importation in Silver; which, however it would Ruine the richest Nation in the World, is no Loss to them, because that Silver, like

our Lead, is a Manufacture of their Country, and the Produce of their Land. *But that by the way.*

As to the Growth and Produce of Old Spain, aforesaid, there is no Nation in the World to whom the Spaniards can dispose of any considerable Quantity of it, but to Britain and Ireland: This was the Reason why, in the last *MERCATOR*, it was said, That unless the Spaniards let their Silver go abroad, they must Trade very little with any Nation but England, because none but England takes off the Growth of Spain. Again,

And let Parties influence us to say and suppose what we will of the French managing the Spaniards in Trade; as long as the Spaniards have any Eyes in their Heads, and any Senses left, they will be for ever dependent upon England for Commerce, and the English will have the greatest Influence on the Spanish Trade of any Nation in the World; nor would it be otherwise, if they were to have a French King set on their Throne every Change: They might be French in Politicks and Matters of State, but they would be Spaniards always in Matters of Trade.

Until the French King can find out a way to have the Produce of Spain Consum'd in France, he will never be able to get the Spaniards to make Preferences and Differences in Trade, to the prejudice of England.

Let us examine the Produce of Spain which they Export, and which consists of a very few Heads, all being the Growth of their Country, for Manufactures they have none.

Wine Vocat. { Malaga Whites  
Alicant } Red.  
Tent }  
Sherries  
Canaries  
Galitias  
Oyl  
Wooll  
Iron.

Fruit Vocat. { Raisins Solis  
Ditto Malaga  
Oranges Sevil  
Lemons Malaga  
Almonds.





*The Wines.* It is hoped, the greatest Opposers in these Cases, will not alledge, That the French can be concern'd to take them off: The only Wine they can make use of from the Spaniard, is Canary, which, for the Quantity, might be Sold, as it was here in former times, in the Apothecaries Shops.

Nor will the Dutch assist to any great degree in this Article, very little Wine being carry'd from Spain to Holland: None but the British take off any Quantity of Spanish Wine, and We to such an excessive Quantity, that England alone, without either Britain or Ireland, usually took off 7 or 8 Thousand Ton of Spanish Wines a Year, before the War with France, and we take about 9 Thousand Ton a Year now.

Let any one judge what the Spaniards would do with all these Wines, if the British Nation did not take them.

The next Article is their Fruit; and this is the very same thing. The French use very little; what they do make use of is in the North parts of France, and those they buy of the British Nation; for in the South and West of France, they have them of their own, in as great plenty as the Spaniards themselves.

The Oyl is still the same, the French buy from us for their Manufactures in the *Pays Conquis*; and for the rest, they have it in Languedoc, Provence, Guienne and Gasconne, sufficient to supply all the rest of France.

Wooll and Iron the French always had in Common with the rest of Europe from the Spaniards, but the Quantity of neither was equal to what the English took; nor is the Quantity of Wooll they take from Spain any thing considerable, compared to what the English take, notwithstanding all that has been said of their making fine Broad-Cloths as good as the English; of which more shall be said hereafter.

Upon the whole, it is clear, let the French attempt what they will for the bringing Spain into their Management, till they can take off the Produce of the Country of Spain, they will never be able to Govern the Spaniards in Matters of Trade; and so much may serve for that Head.

Only it may be necessary to mention one thing about the Prohibition of Exporting Bullion from Spain, which has lately occur'd in Spain, and which may serve to Convince those People, who will be Convinced by reasonable things, that the French Influence they speak of is not like to have such Effects in Spain as has been said. *The Case is this:*

Upon the opening the Trade with Spain, since the Peace and the Confluence of Merchants to Cadiz, Port St. Mary, and other Places, as usual, the Officers, according to their old Laws, began to execute their Power for stopping the Exportation of their Bullion.

The French Merchants, who, during the War, had perhaps assumed a greater Liberty in Spain than formerly, happen to be touch'd with this new Method, and they claim an Exemption; upon which, Application was made to the Corregidore or Judge for such Cases on the place; and obtaining no Relief from him, they applied higher, to the Chamber of Sevil, and after to the King; but could not obtain any relaxing or abatement, in favour of their Nation in the least.

It is true, that notwithstanding those Laws, the Silver is brought away by the French, and by the English much more, as may appear by the exceeding Quantities of Bullion now in Town, which has of late been so much Cheaper in England than in Holland, that occasions the daily Export of it to Holland, insomuch, as per *MERCATOR*, No. 80. and 82. appears above 100000 Ounces of Silver has been sent to Holland in One Month, which, as was said in the *MERCATOR*, was not published to make any Reflection, either Personal or National, but as a Testimony of the Greatness of our Trade to Spain, above all other Nations, and of the Continuance of that Trade, notwithstanding all our Notions of the French being able to supply Spain with Woollen Manufactures; of which more shall be said in its place.

The present Observation, respects the Spaniards keeping up to the Execution of their Prohibitions, without

any respect to the French Influence, of which this about the Bullion is a remarkable Example.

The next thing is the Prohibition of the Spaniards, as to their Trade to the West-Indies, of which something was said before: This is so Universal, and also is so Essential to the preservation of their own Commerce, that it leaves no room for any People so much as to suspect that they will allow the French, or any other Nation, the least Footing there; nor do we hear any Body mention it as probable, when it appears more may be said.

Indeed, had the French reserved the Affiento, or had the French obtained the Privilege of the Two Ships, or 1200 l. Ton of Shipping granted to the English, there wanted not those among us who would have made loud Suggestions, that under the Colour of those Two Grants, the French would have kept their Footing, and Cheated Europe of the Spanish Trade. But those things are now out of the Question.

Nor do we hear any more of the Spaniards taking in the French into a Partnership in that Trade, as was wildly and falsely suggested; all these things, as they were raised to amuse the People, so they die in the Conception, as meer Abortions, which have no Foundation of Truth of Fact to support them, and they must know very little of the Spaniards, who could ever believe them.

The Matter of Impositions shall be considered in the next *MERCATOR*.

## From the CUSTOM-HOUSE.

Exported to France in two Days,  
December 1. and 2.

4 Spanish Cloths  
19 Fodder 6 C. Lead  
600 Firkins Butter  
70 qr. Oats  
70 qr. Barley  
250 qr. Beans  
8 C. Glue  
54000 Lanthorn Leaves  
14478 l. Pepper  
998 l. Shellack  
9 Ton Logwood  
8 Ton Fustick  
37 C. Rice  
42 C. Raisins  
3 C. Corrants  
\* 81 C. Rice  
\* 75 C. Raisins  
\* 230 C. Brown Sugar  
\* 3500 Horn Plates  
\* 3 C. Wrought Iron  
Besides several odd Things.

*Errata in the Mercator, No. 81.*

Col. 1. Line 15. dele *they began*. Col. 2. l. ult. for *publishes* read *publish*.

*Errata in the Mercator, No. 82.*

Col. 1. Line 9. for *Nations* read *Nation*. Col. 3. l. 2. for *37 English Merchant-Ships*, r. *17 English large Merchant-Ships*. Ibid. l. 16. for *will know* r. *well know*. Ibid. l. 48. after *Moselle* r. *&c.*

## ADVERTISEMENT.

BOOKS printed for John Morphew, near Stationers Hall.

\* \* \* The Four Volumes of Memoirs from the New Atlantis, in 8°. Four Parts, and an Appendix, of JOHN BULL, publish'd by the Author of the said New Atlantis. The Conduct of the Allies, the 7th Edition. Remarks on the Barrier-Treaty, the 2d Edition, by the Author of the Conduct of the Allies. The Examiners for the Year 1710-11, in one Vol. in 12°. Memoirs of Count Tariff, by which the whole Secret History of the Refusing the Late Treaty of Commerce is laid open, &c. The Importance of the Guardian consider'd, in a Second Letter to the Bailiff of Stockbridge: By a Friend to Mr St—le. Part of the 7th Epistle of the First Book of Horace imitated, and Address'd to a Noble Peer; the 2d Edition.

LONDON: Printed for BENJ. TOOKE, at the Temple-Gate; and JOHN BARBER, on Lambeth-Hill. (Price 3 Half-pence.)

